



BOROUGH OF STRET FORD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1955

Including the Report of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
STRET FORD.





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30144292>



BOROUGH OF STRETFORD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1955

Including the Report of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
STRETFORD.

F25394.

CONTENTS

	Page
Staff	3
Statistical Summary	11
General Provisions of Health Services	15
Maternal Mortality	16
Infantile Mortality	18
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	19
Housing	21, 55
Factories and Workshops	25, 57
Milk Control	27
Food and Drugs	31, 58
Infectious Diseases	32, 56
Cancer	40
Tuberculosis	42
Inspection of District	47
Drainage	53
Rodent Control	54
Shops and Offices	64
Miscellaneous Duties	64
Hackney Carriages	66
Mortuary	66
National Assistance Acts	45, 67
Petroleum and Carbide	67
Public Cleansing	67

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

WM. SHARPE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., B.Sc.

(Divisional Medical Officer, Health Division No. 16, Lancashire
County Council)

Assistant Medical Officers of Health:

(who are also Assistant Divisional Medical Officers in the whole-time
service of the Lancashire County Council)

BARBARA M. KNIGHT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MARJORIE T. DARE, M.B., Ch.B.

J. N. DOBSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

BARBARA J. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.
(Part-time)

Dental Officers:

(Lancashire County Council)

J. S. HIGHAM, B.D.S.

J. OGDEN, B.D.S.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Director:

***J. KAY, C.S.I.B., M.Inst.P.C., D.P.A. (London)**

Meat and Food Inspector:

***A. MARKLAND, C.S.I.B.**

District Inspectors, 1955

†*G. N. HART, C.S.I.B., A.M.Inst. P.C.
(Resigned October)

***J. C. ANKERS, C.S.I.B.**

†*G. WATERWORTH, C.S.I.B., A.M.Inst. P.C., D.P.A.
(London)

†*J. E. RICHARDS, C.S.I.B.
(Resigned January)

***A. C. CHARLTON, C.S.I.B.**

Meat Inspectors:

***J. HAMNETT, C.S.I.B.**

***P. GARSIDE**
(Resigned July)

*** Certified Meat and Food Inspectors**

† Certified Smoke Inspectors

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the health of the Borough of Stretford for the year 1955.

As may be seen by a perusal of the statistical section of the report the general health of the people of Stretford for the year under review has been satisfactory.

Vital Statistics

The principal points of interest concerning the vital statistics for the year are as follows:—

Population

The estimate by the Registrar-General of the mid-1955 resident population was 62,060, an increase of 186 over the census population of 1951 but a decrease of 450 over the estimated figure for 1954.

Birth Rate

The number of live births registered during the year was 927 giving a rate per thousand of the population of 14, which is the same as for the previous year. The average rate for England and Wales was 15 per thousand population.

Of the 927 live births 58 were illegitimate giving a ratio of illegitimate to legitimate births of 1 to 15. This is an increase over 1954 where the ratio was 1 to 20. There was a marked improvement in the number of still births recorded, the total number being 18 compared with 32 during the previous year. The still birth rate per thousand total births was 19 compared with 33 for 1954.

Death Rate

There was an increase in the general death rate from 11.2 per thousand in 1954 to 12.5 per thousand of the population in 1955. The average rate for England and Wales being 11.7. A progressive increase in the death rate is to be expected due to the ageing of the population, since death, of course, cannot be indefinitely postponed.

Maternal Mortality Rate

It gives me great satisfaction to report that no maternal death was recorded during the year.

Infant Mortality Rate

The infant mortality rate for 1955 was 25 per thousand live births as compared with 17 per thousand in the previous year. This increase, although disappointing, is very little above the national average rate of 24.9 per thousand. The most significant feature of the infant death rate was that out of the total number of 23 deaths in the first year of life 20 of them occurred in the first month after birth. That is 87% of the total infantile mortality was due to deaths in the first month of life.

There is no doubt that these neo-natal deaths form the most resistant part of infant mortality. If a further reduction in the infant mortality rate is to be achieved this early loss of life must be prevented. Our efforts therefore ought obviously to be directed to the improvement in the care of the expectant mother and with the existing division of responsibility for ante-natal care amongst the three parts of the national health service a co-ordinated effort in this direction is not easy to obtain.

It is not generally appreciated how much has been achieved in the prevention of infant mortality since the beginning of the present century. In Stretford for the year 1900 the infant mortality rate was 148.5 per thousand births and by 1925 it had fallen to 72 per thousand; ten years later, 1935, the figure was 60 and for the first post-war year, 1946, it had been reduced to 45. In 1950 the rate had improved to 31 per thousand births and the record low rate of 17 per thousand births was achieved in 1954.

This steady decline in infant deaths cannot of course be attributed to any single factor but rather to the cumulative effect of many. There can, however, be no doubt that the main contribution has come from the devoted labours of the workers in the infant welfare movement both voluntary and official.

Infectious Diseases

The low incidence of notifiable diseases during the year was noteworthy. For the fourth year in succession there was no case of diphtheria in the area, and the community was also free from anterior poliomyelitis.

Except for acute primary pneumonia no death was recorded from any of the principal infectious diseases.

The only significant increase in incidence was in dysentery and most of the 233 cases notified were associated with four separate outbreaks in day nurseries. Much has been said and written in recent years on the increased number of notified cases of dysentery and food poisoning. Just how much of this increase is real and not just apparent is extremely difficult to ascertain. There can be no doubt that a high proportion of the cases are discovered by what is perhaps an over zealous search for the infecting organism amongst contacts, and whether or not the end justifies the means, in what is after all a relatively minor illness, is certainly debatable.

Tuberculosis

A perusal of the statistical tables on pages 42 to 45 show quite clearly that there is no room for complacency as far as this disease is concerned. The number of notifications received during the year amounted to 53, 46 of which were respiratory and there was a total of 16 deaths. Anti-tuberculosis programmes must be intensified in the way suggested by the memorandum on prevention of tuberculosis issued by the Ministry of Health in 1954, the main points of which may be summarised as follows:—

- (1) Detection of the source of infection in all new cases.
- (2) Examination and follow-up of all contacts at home, at school, and at work.
- (3) B.C.G. vaccination for all susceptible children before leaving school.
- (4) More selective mass miniature radiography surveys.
- (5) Skin testing of young children as are indicated in adult cases.

A concerted and sustained attack along these lines, combined with adequate housing would see tuberculosis joining the many other infectious diseases which have become mainly of historical interest in this country. There is no reason why this happy state should not be achieved within the next generation.

Cancer

The continuing high incidence of lung cancer is without doubt one of the greatest challenges to preventive medicine to-day.

That there is a significant relationship between this increase and cigarette smoking there can no longer be any reasonable doubt, and it becomes increasingly obvious that if a halt is going to be called to this wastage of life amongst middle-aged men and in the future women as well, considerably more will have to be done either by health education or medical research to prevent people smoking themselves to a premature death.

It has been shown quite conclusively that the increased incidence of pulmonary carcinoma has followed a very similar curve to the increased consumption of cigarette tobacco. The annual consumption of this tobacco per adult male has increased from 0.4 lbs. in the decade 1891-1900 to 8.3 lbs. for the decade 1941-1950. Women, on the other hand, did not start the habit until after the first world war and their consumption during the 1921-30 decade was approximately 0.2 lbs. per year which has risen to 2.4 lbs. per year in 1941-50. Women are therefore 30 years behind men in their consumption of cigarette tobacco since in 1941-50 their consumption was actually less than the consumption by males in 1911-20 which has been estimated at 3.8 lbs.

It is obvious, therefore, that should the smoking habits of women follow the same pattern as that of men we can expect a similar increase in the incidence of lung cancer in the female sex in the years ahead, as we have witnessed in the male sex over the past three decades.

This, I feel, disposes of at least one of the points made by the tobacco interests who are never slow to point out that women, although quite heavy smokers, do not appear to run the same risk as men regarding lung cancer. Must we sit back and wait until the incidence in the female sex rises substantially in order to gain the required evidence or should we launch a campaign now to try at least to discourage the rising generation from adopting this habit.

In various published surveys from different countries over that last few years it has been shown that the risk of contracting lung cancer varies directly with the amount of cigarette tobacco consumed and that the risk to the heavy smoker is approximately twenty times as great as to the non-smoker. Added to this we now have the direct evidence that cigarettes do contain a carcinogenic agent which has been shown to produce cancer in laboratory animals.

In view of this "incontrovertible" link between smoking and cancer it is disappointing to find that the Minister of Health has not given a much stronger lead on the subject in his recent statements.

It can, of course, be argued that this is no part of the Minister's function and may even be a dangerous precedent, giving encouragement to a less scrupulous successor to use this means of furthering political ends. It should be remembered, however, that the Minister has at his disposal the best medical advice in the country and provided he always acts on the advice given by his technical advisors this danger can be much over emphasised.

I doubt very much if any propaganda will have the slightest effect on the inveterate smoker and consequently the main

attack should be directed against the adolescent in an attempt to prevent him or her acquiring the habit. Even here results will be extremely difficult to obtain. So long as tobacco smoking is associated with adult life most adolescents will adopt it in an attempt to hasten their transition to maturity. If we add to this the amount of propaganda eulogising the effects of tobacco, which is propounded daily by every available advertising medium sponsored by the large and powerful tobacco interests, and the example set to youth by the fact that the habit is universal throughout all classes of the community, we get some idea of the difficulties to be overcome.

In addition to the relationship between cigarette smoking and lung cancer there can be no doubt that habitual heavy smoking will give rise to other medical conditions such as chronic pharyngitis and keep alight chronic bronchitis in those predisposed. This can easily be proved to the satisfaction of any affected heavy smoker by the discontinuance of the habit for a trial period. As a contributory cause of chronic bronchitis alone tobacco addiction is worthy of considerable attention in the field of positive health.

Much has been written on the effects of smoking on the circulatory system, a lot of it by non-smokers and by those who have succeeded in giving it up, and may therefore be accused of basking in the sunshine of their own righteousness. For these reasons the appeal is often to the emotions rather than the intellect. As far as one can ascertain there is no scientific proof that smoking causes heart disease but it is known that it does cause a temporary rise in the heart rate and blood pressure and for these reasons is probably harmful where organic heart disease already exists.

There is no quick and easy method to stop smoking. Various medical treatments have been tried with unimpressive results. The basis of most treatments is to impart an undesirable flavour to the succeeding cigarette by the use of silver nitrate solution or asafoetida, or the substitution of chewing gum, peppermints, barley sugar, ginger, etc. Most of them fail after variable intervals. The cessation of the habit is entirely dependent on the will of the individual which may be fortified by a consideration of the medical aspects. I feel, however, that the views of the confirmed smoker can be expressed in the following quotation:—

“Tobacco is a dirty weed: I like it.
It satisfies no normal need: I like it.
It makes you thin, it makes you lean,
It takes the hair right off your bean;
It's the worst darn stuff I've ever seen:
I like it.”

Lest this should be considered too flippant a note on which to end, what is after all a very serious subject, I cannot do

better than repeat James I of England's description of the smoking habit from his "Counterblast on Tobacco," published shortly after coming to the throne:—"A custom loathesome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and in the black stinking fumes thereof nearest resembling the horrible stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless."

Atmospheric Pollution

The introduction by Parliament of the Clean Air Bill during the year is to be welcomed as a step in the right direction. What is needed, however, is a gigantic leap if any appreciable improvement in air pollution is going to be achieved in the near future. The Bill is timid and unimaginative in its approach to an urgent and serious problem, probably the most urgent problem in environmental health to-day. When the social history of this period comes to be written it may justifiably be referred to by the historian as the "murky age." It is astonishing that a nation with such a good record in environmental hygiene should have tolerated such gross contamination of the air it breathes, for such a long period. Most of us are horrified when we consider the conditions our ancestors lived under, when the open street sewer was an accepted method of drainage, but what we have done to our atmosphere in industrial areas is equally as bad, if not worse, from a health point of view. After all the open sewer could be avoided but no one can prevent the entry into the lungs of the filth contained in the air which is essential to all life.

The amount of ill health contributable to the lack of fresh clean air is very difficult to assess, but that it is a major factor in the production of chronic bronchitic complaints which seem to be accepted as inevitable, and borne so stoically by a very large percentage of our urban population. This aspect of atmospheric pollution in its production of sub-standard health is probably more important than its much publicised "killer" effect due to smog. This danger from smog should not be minimised, since it is a very real threat to the elderly, and which we are not doing very much to try to remove.

Until we move out of the coal age it is very difficult to foresee any complete answer to this problem. It is obvious that the replacement of bituminous fuel with smokeless fuels is going to take a very long time, unless the scale of production of these more desirable solid fuels can be markedly accelerated. If and when complete conversion to smokeless fuels does take place the problem is by no means completely solved unless some method can be devised to reduce the amount of sulphur discharged into the atmosphere, which under certain conditions probably contributes largely to ill health as a bronchial irritant. This is, of course, no argument for a lack

of enthusiasm in smoke abatement since any diminution in the quantity of solid matter in the atmosphere is a worthwhile achievement on health and economic grounds. There can be no doubt that the deleterious effect of atmospheric pollution varies directly with the amount of pollution present, and therefore any diminution in the quantity must be beneficial.

Housing (Applications for rehousing on medical grounds)

The system of dealing with applications for rehousing on medical grounds was modified from the beginning of the year. It was agreed by the Housing Committee that all applicants who considered that they were entitled to priority for health reasons should request their family doctor to communicate directly with the Medical Officer of Health, giving any necessary confidential medical information which would assist in the allocation of priority health points.

This scheme has worked extremely well thanks to the co-operation of the medical practitioners in the area, and during the year 220 cases were dealt with; 138 or 63% warranted some degree of priority for rehousing on medical grounds. The number of such families actually rehoused at the end of the year was 37.

Sewage Disposal

The existing method of sewage disposal by land filtration is outmoded and constitutes a potential danger to the health of the community. It is therefore very gratifying to report that every effort is being made by the authority for its replacement by a modern sewage disposal plant. It is to be hoped that the present economic measures of the central government will not further delay this very necessary project.

I cannot complete this report without referring to the untimely death during the year of my predecessor, Dr. Walker, who died less than a year after his retirement, devoted most of his working life to the preventive health services in the Borough and succeeded in his own quiet and efficient manner in building a health service which compared favourably with any other area in the country.

In conclusion I should like to thank the members of the Health staff for their forbearance and help in the preparation of this report and for their valuable services to the health of the community throughout the year, and last, but by no means least, to you Mr. Chairman and members of the Health Committee I offer my most sincere thanks for your kindness and support during the year.

I have Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman,
the honour to be, .

Your obedient Servant,

WM. SHARPE,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 1955

Area (Statute Acres)	3,530
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1955	62,060
(Census, 1951)	61,874
(Census, 1931)	56,791
Number of Inhabited Dwellings (end of 1955), according to Rate Books (estimated)	18,452
Number of Inhabited Dwellings (Census, 1951)	17,321
Persons per acre	17.58
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census, 1951)	19,445
Rateable Value	£573,331
Product of 1d. Rate	£2,459

VITAL STATISTICS BASED ON THE NET BIRTHS AND DEATHS AFTER CORRECTION FOR INWARD AND OUTWARD TRANSFERS AS FURNISHED BY THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL

		M.	F.	Total
Live Births	{ Legitimate	434	435	869
	{ Illegitimate	18	40	58
	Total	<u>452</u>	<u>475</u>	<u>927</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popu- lation (adjusted)				14.0
Still Births				18
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births				19
Deaths				684
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popu- lation (adjusted)				12.5

The crude death rate of 11.0 per 1,000 population, after adjustment by the use of the comparability factor of 1.13 supplied by the Registrar-General, gives a death rate of 12.5 per 1,000, which is statistically comparable with the death rate for England and Wales of 11.7 per 1,000.

Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	None
Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:	
All infants per 1,000 live births	25
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	23
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	51
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	129
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	None
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	None
Deaths from Diarrhoea, Gastritis and Enteritis	2

The above statistical rates are based on a population of 62,060 as estimated by the Registrar-General at the middle of 1955.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1955

Registrar-General's Classification.

				Males	Females
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	.....	.....	3	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other	.....	.....	2	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	.....	.....	3	1
4.	Diphtheria	.....	.....	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	.....	.....	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	.....	.....	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	.....	.....	—	—
8.	Measles	.....	.....	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	.....	.....	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	.....	.....	15	8
11.	„ „ lung, bronchus	.....	.....	23	5
12.	„ „ breast	.....	.....	—	10
13.	„ „ uterus	.....	.....	—	9
14.	„ „ (other sites)	.....	.....	31	28
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	.....	.....	1	1
16.	Diabetes	.....	.....	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	.....	.....	43	58
18.	Coronary disease, angina	.....	.....	63	30
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	.....	.....	4	10
20.	Other heart disease	.....	.....	38	53
21.	Other circulatory disease	.....	.....	19	22
22.	Influenza	.....	.....	5	3
23.	Pneumonia	.....	.....	16	15
24.	Bronchitis	.....	.....	31	24
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	.....	.....	8	3
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	.....	.....	4	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	.....	.....	2	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	.....	.....	—	4
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	.....	.....	3	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	.....	.....	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	.....	.....	4	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	.....	.....	28	19
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	.....	.....	4	3
34.	All other accidents	.....	.....	8	3
35.	Suicide	.....	.....	7	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	.....	.....	1	—

All causes

367

317

684

WARD INCIDENCE OF DEATHS OCCURRING IN 1955

Stretford	92
Longford	107
Talbot North	83
Talbot South	72
Trafford	115
Cornbrook	89
Clifford	67
Park "A"	21
Park "B"	38
Total	684

BIRTHS

On the Registrar-General's figure of 927 registered births, a crude birth rate for the year of 14.9 per 1,000 estimated resident population is obtained, which is adjusted by use of the comparability factor of 0.94 giving a birth rate of 14.0 per 1,000, comparable with the birth rate for England and Wales of 15.0 per 1,000.

DEATHS

The total number of deaths of Stretford residents recorded by the Registrar-General is 684 (see Table on page 13).

457 deaths were registered in the Borough during the year, including 44 deaths of non-residents which were transferred to their appropriate registration areas: 271 Stretford residents died outside the district. The net number of deaths of Stretford residents (occurring within or outside the district) was therefore 684. Of this number, 405 (or 59.21 per cent. of the total deaths) occurred after the age of 65 years.

Age at death	Number
0—1	23
1—2	—
2—5	1
5—15	6
15—25	1
25—45	32
45—65	216
65—75	172
75 and over	233
Total	684

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Full particulars of the Public Health Officers of the Authority are given on page 3 at the beginning of this Report.

Laboratory Facilities.

Laboratory facilities for the examination of Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council on behalf of the Ministry of Health), at Monsall Hospital, Manchester, and at 143 Regent Road, Salford. There is frequent and mutual collaboration between the Department and the Laboratory. Dr. Parker and his staff at the Laboratory have continued to give prompt advice which has been of practical value.

The Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1951

Three cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during 1955 as compared with nine in 1954. All patients made a satisfactory recovery.

Maternal Mortality.

No maternal deaths were recorded by the Registrar-General during 1955.

The improvement in the mortality figures since 1932 is shown in the following table:—

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE

(Registrar-General's Figures)

Year	STRETFORD		England and Wales
	Maternal Deaths	Maternal Mortality Rate	Maternal Mortality Rate
1932	3	4.08	4.24
1933	5	7.07	4.24
1934	3	2.48	4.41
1935	3	3.74	3.93
1936	3	3.98	3.81
1937	3	3.76	3.11
1938	3	2.63	3.08
1939	2	2.86	2.82
1940	1	1.50	2.16
1941	—	—	2.23
1942	2	2.63	2.01
1943	5	5.17	2.29
1944	1	0.87	1.93
1945	3	2.84	1.79
1946	1	0.76	1.43
1947	3	2.16	1.17
1948	1	0.79	1.02
1949	—	—	0.98
1950	1	0.93	0.86
1951	1	0.98	0.79
1952	—	—	0.72
1953	—	—	0.76
1954	1	1.04	0.69
1955	—	—	0.64

Deaths from abortion have been included each year since 1943.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1955

CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Under 1 Mth.	1 Mth.	2 Mths.	3 Mths.	4 Mths.	5 Mths.	6 Mths.	7 Mths.	8 Mths.	9 Mths.	10 Mths.	11 Mths.	Total under 1 yr.
Prematurity	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Atelectasis	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Congenital heart	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Acute hepatic necrosis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Influenza	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Oesophageal atresia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diffuse peritonitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Haemorrhagic disease of new born	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebral haemorrhage	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Asphyxia	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Cause unknown	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	20	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The infant mortality rate for 1955 was 25 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 17 in the previous year. This is comparable with the rate for England and Wales of 24.9 per 100 live births. From the table on page 17 it will be observed that of the 23 deaths of children under 1 year of age, 20 occurred within 1 month of birth.

NEO-NATAL DEATHS

Certified Causes

Prematurity

4 deaths were due to Prematurity:—

3 within 24 hours

1 at 1 day

Atelectasis

1 within 24 hours

1 at 1 day

1 at 3 days

Congenital heart

1 within 24 hours

Acute hepatic necrosis

1 at 2 weeks

Influenza

1 at 3 weeks

Oesophageal atresia

1 within 24 hours

Diffuse peritonitis

1 at 3 weeks

Haemorrhagic disease of new born

1 at 2 days

Cerebral haemorrhage

1 within 24 hours

1 at 2 days

1 at 2 weeks

Asphyxia

3 within 24 hours

Cause unknown

1 within 24 hours

87 per cent. of the total infantile mortality for the year was due to the 20 deaths which occurred in the first month after birth.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water, Drainage and Sewerage

There has been no change in the sanitary circumstances of the area relating to Water Supply, Drainage and Sewerage.

Rivers and Streams

The Local Authority for the prevention of pollution of rivers and streams is the Mersey Rivers Board. The rivers and streams in the Borough have been kept under observation by the District Sanitary Inspectors.

The effluent from the Stretford Sewage Works discharges into the Kickety Brook and eventually into the River Mersey. Examination of the effluent is carried out systematically by the Mersey Rivers Board.

A scheme for additional works and improvements at the Sewage Works is awaiting Ministry approval.

Closet Accommodation (end of 1955)

No. of Middens	.....	.....	.....	.....	None
„ Closets attached to these Middens	.....	.....	.....	.....	None
„ Pail Closets	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
„ Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens)	.....	.....	.....	.....	None
„ Fresh-water Closets	.....	.....	.....	.....	23,270
„ Movable Ashbins for refuse	.....	.....	.....	.....	19,812
„ Waste-water Closets	.....	.....	.....	.....	None

Public Cleansing

The arrangements are efficient and satisfactory, in spite of difficulties connected with man-power problems and increased costs.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The following tabular statement is submitted by the Chief Sanitary Inspector under Article 27(18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:—

Inspections by Sanitary Staff during 1955—

Dwellings	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,565
Factories	.....	.....	.....	.....	188
Shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	181

No. of notices served during the year—

Statutory—Public Health Acts	.....	.....	.....	.....	204
Informal	.....	.....	.....	.....	507

Results of service of notices—

Statutory—Public Health Acts. Complied with	168
Informal—Compiled with or in hand	343
Outstanding	164
Defects or nuisances discovered	3,851
Defects or nuisances abated	3,417

In addition to the informal notices referred to above, letters of intimation as to nuisances have been sent in 75 cases, making a total of 582 instances in which informal action has been taken to obtain a remedy.

Swimming Baths

The two public swimming baths in the Borough are provided with continuous filtration and chlorination plants.

There are no privately owned swimming baths or pools in the Borough.

Schools

The sanitary condition of all primary and secondary schools is maintained in a satisfactory manner and the water supply to each school is from the Manchester Corporation. Each school is visited once every quarter by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, who reports to the Committee for Education. Defects found are promptly remedied.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS

Offensive Trades

There are three premises registered for the conduct of offensive trades (two fat melting, one gut scraping), the supervision of which is among the duties of the sanitary inspectors. Full compliance with bye-law requirements has been maintained during the year, and one factory, where contents relate to both gut scraping and fat melting, is regarded as a model in regard to both layout and operation. At the other building, where fat melting is carried on, reconstruction work is in progress.

Houses Let in Lodgings

There are no “common lodging houses” in the Borough, but 175 “houses let in lodgings” were registered at the end of the year.

There is still a large number of houses let off in rooms (“flats”) with adequate amenities for each individual family.

SECTION D

HOUSING

(a) Statistics

Number of new houses erected during the year

	Prefabricated Houses	Houses	Flats
(i) By the local authority	Nil	15	65
(ii) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	Nil	19	5

Houses completed since 1939

	New	Rebuilt after demolition due to enemy action
(i) By the local authority	*1,536	30
(ii) By other local authorities	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	†276	99
Total	1,812	9

* Includes 42 prefabricated houses and 759 flats. † Includes 29 flats.

(1) Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 968
- (b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose 3,255
- (2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:—
 - (a) Number found during year 1
 - (b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year 85
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit 33

(2) Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year:
 - (a) Unfit houses Nil
 - (b) Other houses Nil
- (2) Number of persons displaced Nil

(3) Houses not included in Clearance Areas:—

(1) Houses demolished or closed during year:

	No. of Houses	Persons Displaced
(a) Housing Act, 1936—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	Nil	Nil
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	Nil	Nil
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12)	Nil	Nil
(b) Housing Act, 1949—		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3 (1) and 3 (2)	Nil	Nil
(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953—		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2)	Nil	Nil

(2) Repairs during the year:

	No. of houses
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	725
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied—	
(i) By owners	99
(ii) By local authority in default of owners	32
(c) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16)—Houses made fit—	
(i) By owners	Nil
(ii) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
(d) Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954: Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	Nil

(4) Unfit Houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—

- (1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7 Nil
- (2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above Nil
- (3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6) Nil

**(5) Housing Act, 1949—
Improvement Grants, etc.**

Action during year :	Private bodies or individuals		Local Authority	
	No. of Schemes	No. of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	No. of Schemes	No. of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	10	10	—	—
(b) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	2	2	nil	nil
(c) Finally approved by Ministry	nil	nil	nil	nil
(d) Work completed	1	1	nil	nil
(e) Additional separate dwellings included in (d) above	nil	nil	nil	nil

Three loans made under Section 4(1) (d) of the Act for repairs and 148 applications approved for advances for house purchase under Sections 4(1) (a) and (b).

(b) Housing Conditions

(1) General Observations as to Housing Conditions

There are less than 100 unfit houses included for clearance in the five-year programme. Some 800 may become the statutory responsibility of the Council in the subsequent 10 years. The age of these sub-standard houses varies from 70 to 100 years and they are mainly located in re-development areas.

(2) Sufficiency of Supply of Houses

- (a) Extent of shortage, stating minimum number and type of houses required:

1,583 applicants on register.

Houses required: 655 1-bedroom type.

697 2-bedroom type.

189 3-bedroom type.

40 4-bedroom type.

2 5-bedroom type.

- (b) Particulars of any housing scheme in hand or contemplated:

40 flats in course of construction.

42 houses and 22 flats and 263 dwellings in an adjoining district planned for 1956.

- (c) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses:

Available sites in the Borough almost completely exhausted.

The Council are now building in an adjoining district.

(3) Overcrowding

The principal cause of overcrowding is the sub-letting of rooms in larger old houses and frequent changes of tenancy. Increasing use is being made of the powers under Section 11 and 12 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. Many of the families are on the Council's waiting list for housing accommodation.

(4) Fitness of Houses

- (a) Difficulties found in action under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Acts:

None.

- (b) Number of houses which have not an adequate water supply:

None.

- (c) Number of houses which have no separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation:

None—Some families (in large houses intensively occupied) share closet accommodation.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY & WORKSHOP ACT,
1937

in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES

Home Office Form 572

**(1) INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS
RELATING TO PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH**

Premises (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	No. on Register (3)	Number of:			M/c. line No. (7)
			Inspec- tions (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prose- cuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	35	22	4	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	351	166	11	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	3	6	3	—	—	3
TOTAL		392	191	15	—	

(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number of Cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c. line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred by H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	7	7	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	2	2	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	3	3	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	1	1	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :							
(a) Insufficient	9	4	4	—	1	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	19	19	—	1	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	13	10	—	—	—	12
TOTALS	60	49	46	—	2	—	60

There is no outwork conducted in the district in unwholesome premises as defined by Section 111 of the Act.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

Only one dairy farm now survives within the Borough, producing a total quantity of approximately 34 gallons of milk per day.

The control of milk production is now the responsibility of the National Agricultural Advisory Service, a branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Registration of Retail Distributors

Applications for Registration received	Applications granted	Number of Notices to show Cause	Applications granted after Notice to show Cause	Total Applications granted	Removed from Register	On Register at December 31st, 1955
Dairymen (i.e., Retail Distri- butors of Milk with dairy premises) —	—	—	—	—	—	8
Retail Distributors of Bottled Milk only 16	16	—	—	16	—	124
Retail Distributors from persons out- side district 1	1	—	—	1	—	17
TOTAL 17	17	—	—	17	—	149

EXAMINATIONS OF MILK SAMPLES

The following is a summary of the milk samples submitted for Bacteriological and Phosphatase Examination during 1955

Type of Milk	Tubercle Bacilli		Methylene Blue Reduction		Phosphatase		Turbidity Test
	+	—	S	Not S	S	Not S	
Pasteurised	—	—	30	8	38	—	—
Sterilised	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Tuberculin Tested	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(Pasteurised)	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Ungraded	—	*15	14	3	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	15	45	11	39	—	5

S denotes Satisfactory. Total Samples examined: 60.
Phosphatase: S = Not more than 2.3 Lovibond Blue Units.
Methylene Blue: S = **Pasteurised Milk.** Must not decolorize Methylene Blue in 30 minutes after storage at a temperature not exceeding 65°F. until between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. on the day following collection.
Raw Milk. Must not decolorize Methylene Blue within 4½ hours if the sample is taken from 1st May to 31st October, or within 5½ hours if taken from 1st November to 30th April.

* A guinea pig was inoculated from each sample, but no evidence of tuberculous infection was found.

**Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949,
and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and
Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949**

Licenses granted during 1955

Designation	To Retail from Premises within the Borough	To Retail from Premises outside the Borough	TOTAL
Pasteurised	108	14	122
Sterilised	120	16	136
Tuberculin Tested	28	12	40
TOTALS	256	42	298

Adulteration

The administration of the Food and Drugs Acts, 1938, 1944 and 1950, Sections 9, 13 and 14 of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, the Milk and Cream Regulations and the Condensed and Dried Milk Regulations is carried out by this Authority.

During the year 178 samples were submitted to the Salford City Analyst—public analyst for the Borough, for examination.

They comprised 71 milk, 26 ice cream and 81 other samples.

Twelve samples reported upon adversely included two samples of milk deficient in milk fat 3.3% and 6.6% respectively, one sterilised milk reported to have a bitter taste of presumed bacterial origin, one sample of ice cream 8.0% deficient in milk fat, four samples of sausage deficient in meat content and two samples of sausage containing undeclared sulphite preservative.

In only one instance have legal proceedings been instituted, this concerned the sale of pork sausage with a meat deficiency of 40%—65% basis—the manufacturer was fined £5 and £5/9/- costs.

In all other cases vendors were cautioned.

The manufacturer of a sample described as Orange Crush and which contained not more than 15% fruit juice was advised that the word "crush" should be substituted by the word "drink" followed by the words "ready to drink," the label was amended accordingly.

Ninety-nine samples were examined for the presence of preservatives.

SAMPLES EXAMINED
Report of the Borough Analyst

Samples	Number examined	Number adulterated or otherwise giving rise to irregularity		Per cent. Adultera- tion
		Preserva- tives only	Other Ways	
FOODS:				
Milk	71	—	3	4.2
Almonds, Ground	2	—	—	—
Arrowroot	2	—	—	—
Baking Powder	2	—	—	—
Bread	1	—	—	—
Butter	4	—	—	—
Buttered Toast.....	1	—	—	—
Cake Mixture	3	—	—	—
Cakes, Eccles	2	—	—	—
Coffee Flavoured Beverages	1	—	—	—
Cream, Synthetic.....	1	—	—	—
Grapefruit Crush.....	1	—	1	100.0
Ice Cream	26	—	1	3.8
Ice Lollies.....	4	—	—	—
Jam	2	—	—	—
Jelly Crystals	2	—	—	—
Lard	2	—	—	—
Lollie.....	1	—	—	—
Malt Drink	1	—	—	—
Meat Paste	2	—	—	—
Milk, Condensed.....	1	—	—	—
Orangeade Powder	1	—	—	—
Orange Crush	1	—	1	100.0
Orange Drink	1	—	—	—
Orange Squash	2	—	—	—
Pork Lunch Meat	1	—	—	—
Rice	2	—	—	—
Rice, Creamed	2	—	—	—
Salt Substitute, Table	1	—	—	—
Sausage, Beef	3	2	1	100.0
Sausage, Pork	8	2	3	62.5
Suet, Shredded Beef	1	—	—	—
Sweets	5	—	—	—
Tea	4	—	—	—
DRUGS:				
Bicarbonate of Soda	2	—	—	—
Children's Aspirin	1	—	—	—
Compound Liquor- ice Powder	2	—	—	—
Gregory's Powder	2	—	—	—
Malt Extract with Cod Liver Oil	1	—	—	—
Malt with Cod Liver Oil	1	—	—	—
Prescription	1	—	—	—
Seidlitz Powders, B.P.	2	—	—	—
Vitamin Drops	1	—	—	—
Vitorange Energy Tablets	1	—	—	—
Total Foods and Drugs	178	4	10	7.9

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The table on page 34 gives the incidence of notifiable infectious disease. There has been no serious epidemic, the notifications and the mortality approximating to the average for the past ten years.

The clinical type of scarlet fever continues to be mild.

No cases of diphtheria occurred for the fourth year.

One case notified as diphtheria, was proved to be tonsillitis.

Whilst the complete absence of diphtheria for the fourth year in succession is a very satisfying experience, it is feared that there is danger of complacency leading to neglect of immunisation against this dread disease.

Antitoxin is available to all medical practitioners at Park Hospital, Flixton.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

This is now a function of the Divisional Health Committee. Material for immunisation is available for use by General Practitioners on application at the Divisional Health Offices and the Town Hall, Stretford.

Immunisation is also carried out at each of the County Council School Clinics and Child Welfare Centres in the Borough.

The following table shows the immunisation rate at 31st December, 1955.

	At ages (years)		
	0—5	5—15	0—15
No. immunised during the year ended 31.12.55	666	115	781
Total immunised at 31.12.55	2,428	7,392	9,820
Per cent. immunised at 31.12.55.....	50.79	77.98	68.98

Whooping Cough and Measles

There were no deaths from whooping cough or measles.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Three cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified. Two of these patients were confined in hospital and one at home. All were investigated, and in none was there any evidence of Streptococcal infection.

In addition, there was four cases of septic abortion which were treated in hospital, and recovered.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

One case of ophthalmia neonatorum was notified.

Food Poisoning

There were 11 isolated cases of food poisoning of the following types:

- Salmonella Typhimurium, 8.
- „ Heidelberg, 2.
- „ Give, 1.

Dysentery

There were 233 confirmed cases of sonne dysentery, including four outbreaks at nurseries involving 33, 42, 35 and 19 cases, and one at a school involving 15 cases.

Acute Poliomyelitis

There were no confirmed cases of acute poliomyelitis during the year.

The following table gives the incidence of poliomyelitis in the Borough since 1945:—

Year	Age incidence under 1 year				Over 1 year						Total
	0-2 mths.	3-5 mths.	6-8 mths.	9-11 mths.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5 yrs.	6+ yrs.	
1945	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1946	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1947	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	4	9
1948	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
1949	—	—	1†	—	2	2	2	1	1	6	15
1950	—	2*	—	—	3	1	1	1	—	8	16
1951	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
1952	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
1953	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
1954	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1955	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	2	2	1	5	5	5	2	5	22	49

* Patients had not received any immunising inoculations during the 12 months preceding the date of onset of symptoms—fatal.

† Patients had not received any immunising inoculations during the 12 months preceding the date of onset of symptoms—some paralysis.

There has been no evidence to suggest any causal connection between immunisation against diphtheria and onset of poliomyelitis.

**INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR 1955**

Disease	CASES NOTIFIED (after correction of diagnosis)										Total deaths	Hospital		
	Total cases at all ages	Years								Total cases removed to hospital from the district		Deaths in hospital of persons belonging to district		
		Under 1	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-				65 and over	
Smallpox	—	—	4	12	26	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Scarlet Fever	46	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including membranous Croup)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	98	12	20	31	33	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	9	—
Whooping Cough	323	12	99	101	100	4	4	3	—	—	—	—	14	—
Measles	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia:	20	—	—	—	2	—	1	7	7	3	31	—	—	12
Acute Primary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Influenzal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	233	6	49	61	38	7	17	47	5	3	—	—	6	—
Dysentery	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	11	2	3	2	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria (contractd. abroad)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	738	33	175	207	201	15	26	61	14	6	31	36	12	12

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL

Sent into Hospital as:	HOSPITAL :				TOTAL
	Ladywell Hospital	Monsall Hospital	Booth Hall Hospital	Cherry Tree Hospital	
Scarlet Fever	1	5	—	1	7
Diphtheria	—	1	—	—	1
Tonsillitis	—	1	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	3	—	—	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	1	1	—	4
Dysentery	3	2	1	—	6
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	1
Typhoid Fever	—	2	—	—	2
German Measles	1	—	—	—	1
Measles	2	8	3	—	13
Whooping Cough	3	5	1	—	9
Septic Abortion	—	4	—	—	4
Inevitable Abortion	—	1	—	—	1
Incomplete Abortion	—	5	—	—	5
Threatened Abortion	—	1	—	—	1
Gastro Enteritis.....	2	—	—	—	2
Quinsey	—	1	—	—	1
Mumps	1	1	—	—	2
TOTALS	16	41	6	1	64

WARD DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notified Disease	Ward Distribution of Cases notified								Number of Cases removed to Hospital from each Ward										
	WARDS								WARDS										
	Stretford	Longford	Talbot North	Talbot South	Trafford	Cornbrook	Clifford	Park "A"	Park "B"	Stretford	Longford	Talbot North	Talbot South	Trafford	Cornbrook	Clifford	Park "A"	Park "B"	TOTAL
Diphtheria (inc. Membranous Croup)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	6	1	1	5	4	8	—	13	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	4
Scarlet Fever	8	5	69	34	39	33	22	—	25	—	—	1	—	1	—	4	—	—	6
Dysentery	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	20	30	7	2	8	8	—	16	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	1	1	9
Whooping Cough	29	34	87	35	26	30	48	5	29	1	—	4	—	1	2	3	1	2	14
Measles	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis: Pulmonary	5	3	6	6	6	8	9	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other forms	1	1	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	9	6	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Food Poisoning	—	2	1	—	4	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria (Contracted Abroad)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	60	77	196	88	84	88	98	15	85	1	—	7	2	4	4	13	2	3	36

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1946-1955

	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	10 years mean
Scarlet Fever	46	7	75	188	77	103	95	80	110	74	85.5
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	7	1.1
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	1	1	—	5	1	—	—	0.8
Pneumonia	20	21	26	15	37	31	37	32	25	26	27.0
Meningococcal Infection	—	3	2	—	1	—	2	—	2	2	1.2
Acute Encephalitis	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.2
Dysentery	233	138	67	19	30	48	—	—	1	5	54.1
Erysipelas	3	5	6	9	9	4	19	12	16	19	10.2
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	3	1	2	16	15	3	9	—	4.9
Measles	323	585	390	679	855	488	878	502	405	301	540.6
Whooping Cough	98	60	227	269	165	255	234	514	105	117	204.4

	DEATHS										10 years mean
	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	0.1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0
Pneumonia	31	21	22	29	19	19	33	25	30	40	26.9
Meningococcal Infections	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	0.2
Acute Encephalitis	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	0.4
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	0.4
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	0.1
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	2	0.6

INFECTIOUS DISEASES
Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified each month during 1955

Month	DIPHTHERIA (inc. Membranous Croup)	ERYSIPELAS	SCARLET FEVER	ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS	PUERPERAL PYREXIA	OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM	PNEUMONIA	FOOD POISONING	TYPHOID FEVER	DYSENTERY	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION	MALARIA	AC. ENCEPHALITIS	MEASLES	WHOOPING COUGH	TOTAL
January	—	1	3	—	2	—	8	—	—	31	—	—	—	114	10	169
February	—	—	8	—	—	—	1	3	—	60	—	—	—	98	26	196
March	—	1	4	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	42	9	58
April	—	—	6	—	—	—	1	1	—	24	—	—	—	17	9	58
May	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	5	—	—	—	19	3	32
June	—	—	5	—	—	—	1	2	—	19	—	—	—	2	4	33
July	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	6	—	—	—	7	2	19
August	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	10	16
September.....	—	—	3	—	—	1	1	1	—	20	—	—	—	2	3	31
October.....	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	30	—	—	—	3	7	43
November.....	—	—	3	—	1	—	2	1	—	21	—	—	—	16	8	52
December	—	1	6	—	—	—	1	—	—	15	—	—	—	1	7	31
TOTAL	—	3	46	—	3	1	20	11	—	233	—	—	—	323	98	738

Notifications were cancelled or amended in 77 cases, viz:—

In 1 case notified as Diphtheria, diagnosis was amended to:

Tonsillitis, 1.

In 3 cases notified as Scarlet Fever, diagnosis was amended to:

Measles, 1.

German Measles, 1.

Tonsillitis, 1.

In 4 cases notified as Acute Poliomyelitis, diagnosis was amended to:

Chiropompholyx, 1.

? Influenza, 1.

? Epilepsy, 1.

Tonsillitis, 1.

In 2 cases notified as Typhoid Fever, diagnosis was amended to:

Dysentery, 2.

In 2 cases notified as Dysentery, diagnosis was amended to:

Gastro Enteritis, 1.

Salmonella Typhimurium, 1.

In 1 case notified as Food Poisoning, diagnosis was amended to:

Dysentery, 1.

In 1 case notified as Dysentery and not admitted to hospital the diagnosis was amended to Salmonella Typhimurium.

57 cases notified as Dysentery and 6 cases notified as Food Poisoning were not confirmed bacteriologically.

**BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION IN DIAGNOSIS
OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

	Patients		Contacts	
	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
Swabs for Diphtheria	1	44	—	7
Swabs for Haem-Strep.	16	—	—	13
Sputum for Tuberculosis	—	6	—	—
Faeces for Dysentery	722	1021	13	546
Faeces for Food Poisoning	48	30	—	13
Swabs for Pertussis	—	2	—	—

DISINFECTION

Disinfection of premises is carried out by formaldehyde spray and formalin vapour generators. Infected bedding and other articles suitable for disinfection by steam are dealt with at Ladywell Hospital, Salford. Other articles are disinfected in situ by formalin or sulphur. Full details of the work of this section of the Department are contained in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under these Regulations during the year.

Facilities for vaccination are available at all Infant Welfare Centres in the area and by all general practitioners.

CANCER

The death rate from cancer was 2.11 per 1,000 population of the Borough.

129 deaths were recorded from cancer, and these are shown by age distribution and site of disease on page 41.

At the age groups shown below the deaths from cancer are compared with total deaths:—

	At ages (years)				Total
	0—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	
Total deaths from cancer	1	6	71	51	129
Total deaths from all causes	39	24	216	405	684
Percentage of cancer deaths to total deaths	2.6	25.0	32.9	12.6	18.9

DEATHS FROM CANCER, 1955

Site of Disease and Age at Death

CANCER (Site)	At all Ages	At Ages (years)			
		0 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Lip	1	—	—	—	1
Tonsil	2	—	—	1	1
Larynx	3	—	—	1	2
Oesophagus	4	—	—	1	3
Bronchus	16	—	2	11	3
Lung	12	—	—	9	3
Lung and Breast	1	—	—	—	1
Breast	8	—	2	4	2
Spine and Bladder	1	—	—	1	—
Humerus.....	1	—	—	—	1
Stomach	23	—	—	13	10
Stomach and Liver	1	—	—	1	—
Liver	4	—	—	—	4
Liver and Breast	1	—	—	1	—
Liver and Pancreas	1	—	—	1	—
Liver and Cervix	1	—	—	1	—
Colon	11	—	—	6	5
Pancreas	3	—	—	—	3
Ileocaecum	1	—	—	1	—
Bladder	2	—	—	1	1
Bowel	2	—	—	—	2
Rectum	8	—	—	5	3
Ovary	4	1	—	2	1
Uterus and Colon	1	—	—	1	—
Uterus	5	—	—	3	2
Cervix	4	—	—	3	1
Cervix and Vagina	1	—	—	—	1
Prostate	1	—	—	1	—
Lymph Gland	3	—	1	1	1
Carcinomatosis	3	—	1	2	—
TOTALS	129	1	6	71	51

TUBERCULOSIS

46 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 7 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were 12 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 4 deaths from non-pulmonary forms of the disease.

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the register at 31st December, 1955 is shown in the following table:—

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
192	177	369	31	33	64	223	210	433

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1955

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years:								
0-	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2-	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-	1	2	1	1	—	—	1	—
20-	4	4	1	1	1	—	—	—
25-	3	8	1	—	—	—	—	1
35-	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
45-	8	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
55-	5	—	—	—	6	1	1	1
65-	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
75 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	28	18	4	3	9	3	2	2
	46		7		12		4	

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality, 1946-1955

Year	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1946	38	24	15	16	38	10	5	3
1947	37	24	10	11	23	13	3	1
1948	40	26	18	11	19	10	2	1
1949	33	20	5	7	17	7	1	2
1950	35	20	5	5	10	6	—	2
1951	46	26	4	8	10	1	2	1
1952	27	29	3	2	13	6	—	1
1953	28	27	3	5	15	3	—	2
1954	22	13	—	8	5	3	—	—
1955	28	18	4	3	9	3	2	2

The Chest Clinic is situated at Stretford Memorial Hospital, where all facilities for diagnosis and ambulatory treatment are available.

CASES NOTIFIED UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1952

	Quarter ending:				TOTAL
	March 31st	June 30th	Sept. 30th	Dec. 31st	
PULMONARY—					
Lungs	11	18	11	5	45
Lungs and Abdomen	—	—	—	—	—
Pleura	—	—	—	—	—
Apex	—	—	—	—	—
Chest	1	—	—	—	1
Hilum	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	12	18	11	5	46
NON-PULMONARY—					
Alimentary :					
Peritoneum	—	—	—	—	—
Glands :					
Mesenteric	—	—	—	—	—
Auxiliary	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal	—	—	—	—	—
Cervical	—	1	—	—	1
Genito-Urinary :					
Endometrium	—	1	—	—	1
Uterus	—	—	—	—	—
Joints and Bones :					
Hip	—	1	—	—	1
Spine	1	—	—	—	1
Rib	—	—	—	—	—
Elbow	—	—	—	—	—
Meninges	—	1	—	1	2
Face	—	—	1	—	1
TOTAL	1	4	1	1	7
GRAND TOTAL—PULMONARY AND NON-PULMONARY	13	22	12	6	53

Non-Notified Tuberculosis

There were two deaths from tuberculosis which had not previously been notified:—

(1) A boy aged 16 years: certified cause of death:

I (a) Tubercular Meningitis

(b) Miliary Tuberculosis

(2) A man aged 63 years: certified cause of death:

I (a) Tubercular Peritonitis

II Chronic Myocarditis

No action has been required under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

Removal of persons in need of care and attention

There was no occasion during the year under review to make application to a Justice of the Peace for the removal of aged and infirm persons living in insanitary conditions and unable to devote to themselves, and not receiving from other persons proper care and attention.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955

To the Chairman and Members
of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to present to you my Annual Report in respect of environmental health and the operation of the public cleansing services. The particulars furnished cover the work of the department during the calendar year 1955, and comprise my seventh annual report on the work of the inspectorate.

Although continued progress has been made during the year in all aspects of environmental hygiene the staff are faced with expanding duties in connection with food hygiene, slum clearance, and the prevention of atmospheric pollution. Whereas in the past the staffing position has been adequate, the year under review has witnessed staff shortages, and the remaining inspectorate have been working at full pressure to cope with the many duties entrusted to them.

The recruitment of Public Health Inspectors shows some sign of improvement as this report is prepared, and no doubt this Council's enlightened attitude in encouraging the training of pupils will make a notable contribution to the problem of supplying keen, well-qualified men for the profession.

In the Cleansing Service the work has continued very satisfactorily and the bulldozer continues to prove its value in the work of land reclamation. The recovery of salvage during the year was most encouraging, as the value of salvage sales was a near record for the Department.

May I again refer to the generous encouragement which I have received from the Committee and Town Council in executing the various functions and duties entrusted to me, and also pay tribute to the willing co-operation of my colleagues throughout the year, which has enabled those duties to be tackled with the vigour and efficiency which the Health Committee have every right to expect.

Yours obediently,

J. KAY,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(1) INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

(a) Complaints received and Investigated

During the course of the year 653 complaints were received in the department from householders and other persons in relation to the many and varied aspects of environmental hygiene. The character of these complaints is shown in the following tables which may be regarded as representative of a normal year:—

Nature of Complaint	Number Received
Obstructed drains	60
Obstructed cellar drains	15
Obstructed sink wastepipe	2
Obstructed water closet	6
Obstructed yard drain	9
Defective water closet	19
Defective plaster	6
Defective dustbin	14
Defective house roof	55
Defective floors	6
Defective windows	5
Defective fireplaces	4
Defective kitchen sink	1
Defective lavatory basin	3
Defective yard surface	3
Defective wall	11
Defective gutters	12
Defective chimney	7
Defective drains	8
Dampness of house	28
Accumulation of refuse	11
Dirty house	4
General insanitary conditions	33
House infested with vermin	74
Rats and Mice infesting dwellings	162
Requests for Inspector to call (nature of complaint not stated)	1
Food	20
Miscellaneous	74
Total	653

(b) Visits and Inspections

Routine visits and the investigation of the aforementioned complaints entailed the inspection of 2,627 separate premises by the sanitary inspectorate. Invariably repeated re-visits are found necessary for the supervision and approval of work required by notice, so that the total number of inspections undertaken by the staff totalled 10,469. The manner in which the officers' time has been employed during the course of the year is illustrated in the tabulated inspections for the promotion of public health shown in the following table:—

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS	Number
Houses—	
Public Health Acts	1,498
Housing Acts	152
Infectious Diseases	1,887
Overcrowding	10
Drainage Inspections and Tests	1,104
Canal Boats	1
Houses let in lodgings	18
Rivers and Streams	24
Tents, Vans and Sheds	3
Stables and Piggeries	4
Rats and Mice Infestation	22
Factories with Power	166
„ without Power	22
Workplaces	3
Outworkers' rooms	15
Bakehouses	102
Public Conveniences	1
Theatres, Cinemas, etc.	1
Schools	27
Shop Acts	181
Petroleum Acts	113
Vacant Land and Dumps	17
Common Yards and Passages	12
Interviews with Owners, etc.	238
Miscellaneous Visits.....	789
Vermin	397
Offices	20
Re-visits to premises under notice—Public Health Act	2,301
„ „ „ „ —Housing Act.....	75
Offensive Trades	6
Smoke Observations	82
Boiler Plant	31
MEAT AND FOODS—	
Slaughterhouses.....	327
Butchers' Shops and Stores	114
Fishmongers and Poulterers	16
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	16
Grocers and other Food Shops	151
Fried Fish Shops	21
Dairies and Milkshops	100
Food Vehicles	11
Ice Cream Premises	80
Restaurants and Dining Rooms	121
Other Food Premises	190
Milk Samples	48
Food and Drugs Samples	163
Ice Cream Samples	53
TOTAL	10,733

(c) **Advances in Environmental Hygiene**

Much progress has been made during the course of the year under review in securing the repair of dwellinghouses, the abatement of sanitary defects and the amelioration of unsatisfactory conditions about premises, whilst many contraventions of statute law, regulations and byelaws have been rectified.

A considerable volume of work undertaken in the execution of functions on behalf of the Health Committee was carried out voluntarily after the service of 616 informal notices, or after verbal intimations or letters. Although a large proportion of the work called for was thus executed without undue delay, it was still found necessary to serve 205 statutory abatement notices. Formal action by the Town Clerk had to be taken in respect of an increased proportion of the abatement notices, and legal proceedings were actually instituted in 36 cases. This form of action resulted in the making of 19 abatement orders by the court, and the requirements of these orders were subsequently carried out by owners, or in some cases, by the local authority in default. Seven hearings were adjourned in cases where work had commenced and the promise of early completion was given, whilst in the remaining 10 cases the summonses were withdrawn, due to the satisfactory completion of the work before the date of hearing.

A complete statement of defects remedied, together with the number of formal and informal notices which were served for this purpose, is shown below:—

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied	Number
Houses—	
Chimneys and stacks repaired	42
Coppers provided or repaired	1
Cooking ranges repaired or renewed	1
Ceiling plaster repaired	59
Dampness abated	18
Damp-proof courses provided or renewed	1
Doors repaired or renewed	17
Eaves guttering repaired or renewed	164
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	19
Floors repaired or renewed	28
Overcrowding abated	2
Roofs repaired or renewed	238
Repairs to water supplies	2
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	72
Sinks provided	2
Sinks repaired or renewed	6
Sashcords provided	37
Stairs repaired or renewed	2
Ventilation provided	3
Walls (external) re-pointed, etc.	81
Wall plaster repaired	118
Windows repaired or renewed	85
Water supplies provided	3
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	25
Yards and passages paved or repaired	15
Drainage—	
Drains cleared of obstructions	225
Drains repaired or reconstructed	135
Inspection chambers provided or repaired ...	10
Water Closets—	
New water closets provided	3
Water closet compartments repaired	20
Water closets cleansed	2
Water closet pedestals provided	8
Water closet cisterns provided or repaired ...	25

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied—continued

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied	Number
Dustbins—	
New dustbins provided	1,858
Miscellaneous—	
Offensive accumulations removed	14
Animals—nuisances abated	1
Dirty premises cleansed	19
Contraventions remedied in—	
Slaughterhouses	1
Shops	8
Offices	1
Butchers' premises	3
Food premises generally	12
Factories and workplaces	30
Bakehouses	1
Ice cream premises	1
Total	3,417

INFORMAL NOTICES

Subject	Outstanding 31/12/54	Served	Abated	Outstanding 31/12/55
Public Health Acts	152	582	570	164
Housing Acts	5	—	5	—
Factories Acts—				
Mechanical Power	15	11	18	8
Non-Mechanical	9	2	10	1
Shops Act.....	7	8	8	7
Food and Drugs Act	13	10	20	3
Milk and Dairies Regulations	—	1	—	1
Petroleum Regulations	3	2	3	2
TOTAL	204	616	634	186

STATUTORY NOTICES

Section of Act	Subject	Out-standing 31st Dec., 1954	Served	Abated	Out-standing 31st Dec., 1955
24	Maintenance of a length of public sewer	—	15	15	—
39	Drainage.....	2	10	9	3
45	Defective Water-closet	—	11	11	—
60	Means of Escape from fire.....	—	1	—	1
79	Conditions prejudicial to health	—	1	1	—
91-100	do. do.	61	165	194	32
91-100	do. do.	—	1	1	—
Housing Acts 9	General Housing Defects	4	1	2	3
	TOTAL	67	205	233	39

(2) DRAINAGE

One of the oldest functions of the department, and without doubt an important factor in the provision of hygienic conditions in built-up areas, is the control of drainage work and each year the inspection, testing and supervision of drainage work and plumbing calls for considerable attention from your inspectors.

In connection with the drainage of proposed new buildings, drawings deposited with the Borough Engineer and Surveyor are referred to this department for scrutiny, and in view of this happy liaison between the two departments, full compliance with the bye-law standards is achieved, and the subsequent duty of supervision, examination and testing, has been greatly facilitated.

In addition to the control of new drainage systems, the department is also concerned with the efficiency and suitability of existing systems, and the total number of drainage inspections and tests carried out during the year totalled 1,104. In only two cases was it found necessary to carry out drainage work in default after the service of statutory notices, and this resulted in an expenditure of £10 16s. 7d., which was later recovered from the respective owners.

In cases where different premises derive benefit from a combined drain, the Health Committee is charged with the duty of maintaining these lengths of "public sewer", but is also empowered to recharge expenditure incurred in works of maintenance. During the year 19 such cases arose and resulted in the expenditure of £212 2s. 0d., all of which was recharged to the various owners whose property derived benefit from the combined drains.

(3) **RODENT CONTROL**

For the past 12 years a sustained effort has been made to minimise the ravages of the rodent population, and it can fairly be said that the close control over this problem has been well maintained during the course of 1955. So prolific are these creatures that lack of effective measures against them could soon lead to considerable damage to structures, the loss of large quantities of foodstuffs through contamination, as well as consumption by the rodents, and the danger of increased infection.

The co-operation between adjoining local authorities in the Advisory Committees for Rodent Control has been a great help in reducing infestations, and the appropriate Ministry keeps the department informed of recent developments.

Extensive treatments against rats and mice do not figure as largely in the work of the department as they did formerly, as the emphasis is now placed upon the duty of the local authority to ensure that the area is kept free from rats and mice, and the extent of the preventive measures required is recorded in the figures submitted below:—

SURFACE INFESTATION

Type of Property	Premises Treated	Number of Inspections	Rats Killed	Mice Killed
Local Authority	28	40	39	73
Dwellinghouses	205	251	59	364
Agricultural Land	8	13	26	12
Industrial Premises	688	1,589	279	1,292
TOTALS	929	1,893	403	1,741

Treatment in Sewers

A systematic maintenance treatment of the sewers was again continued during the period under review, in order to obviate the natural increase in rodent population. Two treatments of

the sewers were carried out, in March and September respectively. After a token test-baiting a poison treatment was undertaken at all manholes where infestation had been traced.

A comparison of the figures shown in the table below for 1954 and 1955 will indicate how regular maintenance treatment has the salutary effect of reducing the areas of infestation in the sewers, and thereby reducing also the possibility of surface infestation:—

	1954		1955	
	March	September	March	September
Total Number of Manholes	1,966	1,966	1,969	1,969
Number of Manholes Baited	787	179	292	67
Number of Manholes showing pre-bait take	65	53	22	4
Number of Manholes showing complete pre-bait take	63	42	22	4

(4) **HOUSING**

(a) **Inspections and Repairs**

With the introduction of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, it was generally felt that repairs to dwellinghouses would be facilitated, and that property owners with a little extra margin from the increased rents would remedy defects promptly. It has been found, however, in practice that many landlords and agents have not availed themselves of the opportunity to increase the rents, and the general policy seems to have been to leave well alone. In many cases, however, work has been done under the added stimulus of the Certificates of Disrepair obtained by the tenants. It has become the practice to issue courtesy notices in respect of all pending applications for Certificates of Disrepair, and in some cases defects have been remedied before the reports have reached the Health Committee.

Out of a total number of 18,452 dwellinghouses within the Borough 968 were inspected in connection with housing defects, and together with re-visits, 3,255 inspections were made.

As a result of informal action alone 725 unfit houses were rendered fit, whilst a further 131 dwellinghouses were made fit for human habitation after statutory action. The property

owners initiated the repairs in 99 cases, but in the remaining 33 cases the local authority had to take action in default of the owners.

(b) Standard of Accommodation

The year under review saw the formulation of proposals for dealing with sub-standard housing accommodation, and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government called for the estimated number of houses to be considered for clearance over a period of five years. After the formation of a special ad hoc committee representing the various interests, public health, rehousing, redevelopment, and financial, the programme previously formulated was sent forward to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Early action is now anticipated to deal with the older deteriorating property which cannot remain occupied much longer.

Although steady progress has been made in the construction of new houses and flats within the Borough, there still remains a housing shortage, and this is reflected in the houses let in lodgings, where there is a minimum of separate amenities due to the intensive occupation of separate rooms. It can be reported, however, that amelioration of conditions has been obtained in many cases both in respect of amenities and the abatement of overcrowding.

(c) Disinfestation

The continued attack against insect pests in dwellinghouses was carried on during the year, and a free treatment was offered to householders. The infestations were mainly in respect of cockroaches, and the systematic application of liquid and powder insecticides cleared up infestations in 55 private houses and 35 council houses. No long-standing infestations were detected during the course of the year, and it was not necessary to have recourse to fumigation by H.C.N.

(5) INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of investigations into the causes and mode of spread of various notifiable infections increased to 1,887, as compared with the total number of visits for the previous year when 1,264 investigations were made. The increase is largely accounted for by outbreaks of dysentery during the summer months, which were followed up most thoroughly in an endeavour to prevent further cross infection in the schools and homes of patients.

The disinfection of rooms after infectious disease called for only 115 visits as against 179 in the previous year.

(6) **FACTORIES**

(a) **Defects and Contraventions**

The functions of the department in respect of factories include the provision and maintenance of sanitary accommodation in factories where mechanical power is employed, and in addition, cover cleanliness, drainage of floors, overcrowding, temperature and ventilation considerations in all factories which are not equipped with mechanical power.

An increased number of routine visits was paid to factories totalling 191, and the two tables which follow furnish statistics regarding the number of factories on the register, together with the defects found and remedied as a result of routine inspections:—

INSPECTIONS

Type of Premises	Factories on Register	Inspections
Factories without mechanical power	35	22
Factories with mechanical power	351	166
Other Premises	6	3
TOTAL	392	191

DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED

Nature of Defect	Defects	
	Found	Remedied
Inadequate ventilation	3	3
Want of cleanliness	7	7
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1
Unreasonable Temperature.....	2	2
Sanitary Conveniences—		
(a) Insufficient	4	4
(b) Defective	19	19
Other Offences	13	10
TOTAL	49	46

(b) **Means of Escape in Case of Fire**

Certification of means of escape in case of fire in the larger factories is undertaken by the staff of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, in accordance with the provisions of Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, but wherever inflammable liquids or materials are manufactured or stored the officers of this department furnish reports in respect of the storage arrangements.

In smaller factories where no more than 20 persons are employed, or no more than 10 persons on any floor above ground level, bye-laws are administered by this department in respect of means of escape in case of fire.

(c) Outworkers

The control of outworkers' premises was continued during the year, and visits made to dwellinghouses shown in the prescribed lists received by the department during February and August from employers. In no case was homework found to be in progress in unwholesome premises.

(d) Smoke Observations

At the close of the year there were 184 factory chimney-stacks within the Borough which are capable of emitting smoke and other products of combustion into the air, and thereby causing atmospheric pollution. Routine time-recorded observations of chimney-stacks were made in connection with 82 factories, and the results were submitted to the managements. Furthermore, 31 inspections of steam-raising plants were undertaken during the year. Although warnings were issued in two cases it was not found necessary to resort to statutory action.

It is anticipated that once the Air Pollution Bill becomes statute law further advances will be made in improving the atmospheric conditions in the Borough, and steps have already been taken to improve the efficiency of certain plants, due to the ready co-operation of the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service.

(7) FOOD INSPECTION

(a) Meat Inspection at time of Slaughter

The day to day duties of our meat inspectors constitute a first line of attack upon the possible spread of food infections, and the work has proceeded during the year with the usual efficiency and again a 100% post-mortem inspection of carcase meat and associated organs has been maintained. As compared with the previous year a decrease in the number of animals which were brought forward for slaughter for human food has been noted.

The year 1954 produced a record total kill of 87,549 animals, and this engaged the full time activities of two meat inspectors, together with assistance from district inspectors as occasion demanded. The reduced kill for the present year numbering 35,838 food animals is due mainly to the decrease in the number of sheep and pigs which have been slaughtered during the year, and it was found possible to leave vacant one post of meat inspector to compensate for the reduced throughput.

Whilst the total number of animals slaughtered shows a decrease, the incidence of disease shows a small but appreciable increase in all classes of animals, as compared with the previous year. This is the second successive year upon which this tendency for an increased incidence of disease has been reported, and it is found in connection with all diseases, including tuberculosis.

The statistics which are furnished in the following tables give full details of the diseased conditions found in various animals, and re-emphasises the importance of a competent meat inspection service:—

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INCIDENCE OF DISEASE

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	3,211	2,343	566	18,815	11,652	25
Number inspected }						
All diseases except tuberculosis: Whole carcasses condemned	1	16	8	29	108	—
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	523	874	—	2,295	2,056	18
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	17·5%	27·9%	1·21%	12·3%	18·5%	7·1%
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses condemned	4	33	—	—	4	—
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	278	662	—	—	599	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	8·7%	29·6%	—	—	5·1%	—

WHOLE CARCASSES CONDEMNED

	Cows	Hei- fers	Bul- locks	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses
Generalised tuberculosis	33	1	3	—	—	4	—
*Cysticercus bovis	3	2	3	—	—	—	—
Acute Septic Peritonitis	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Decomposition	—	—	—	—	16	1	—
Emaciation	2	—	—	3	2	10	—
Fevered	5	—	1	—	—	2	—
Joint ill	—	—	—	3	2	—	—
Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Malnutrition	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Moribund	—	—	—	—	5	4	—
Oedema	—	—	—	—	2	7	—
Pyæmia	1	—	—	—	—	15	—
Putrefaction	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Septic mastitis	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Septic peritonitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Septic metritis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swine fever.....	—	—	—	—	—	65	—
Toxaemia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uraemia	4	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Carcases treated by refrigeration.

The organisation of slaughtering since de-control in July, 1954, was explained in last year's Annual Report, and the position whereby the five slaughterhouses are leased out to three separate firms has continued. The early optimism regarding the return to private slaughter led to unusually high throughputs, and now that a note of caution has crept in, the work seems to have approached a fairly uniform level, with, of course, the usual seasonal variations.

The duty of securing the proper disposal of diseased carcase meat and offals, which had to be assumed by the Committee upon de-control of slaughtering, has continued during the year with adequate safeguards to protect the public health, and the materials are offered by tender at regular intervals to large manufacturers of animal feeding stuffs.

After consultation with the slaughterers regarding the proceeds from the sale of these unsound products, a satisfactory formula has now been agreed whereby the council retains control of the diseased material, arranges for its disposal, and reimburses the slaughtering firm concerned with a proportion of the proceeds.

(b) Other Foods

By means of routine visits, and upon complaint, numerous examinations of food, other than butcher's meat, were made in premises where food is prepared, stored and sold. The following table shows the commodities which have been declared as unfit for human consumption, and subsequently surrendered by the owners:—

FOOD SURRENDERED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lb.
Canned Meat	1	6	1	15
Fresh Meat	—	2	3	0
Canned Fruit	1	12	3	5
Canned Milk	—	1	3	0
Dried Milk	—	—	1	0
Dried Fruit	—	—	2	2
Canned or Dried Vegetables	—	1	3	2
Canned Fish	—	—	1	4
Spray Dried Egg	—	—	1	0
Flaked Egg Albumen	—	—	1	0
Frozen Egg	—	—	3	14
Canned Soups	—	—	—	21
Fowl	—	—	2	15
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	25
TOTAL	3	8	3	19

Special Examination of Food Stuffs

	Quantity Examined				Quantity Condemned			
	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.
Canned Meat	4	2	2	0	4	2	2	0

(c) Food Premises

At the end of the year under review the total number of food premises within the Borough recorded in the department

was 558, and the various types of businesses are classified below:—

Type of Business	Number
Grocers and Provision Dealers	150
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	44
Fishmongers	4
Meat Shops	52
Bakers and Confectioners	57
Fried Fish Shops	26
Shops selling mainly Sweets and Ice Cream	54
Licensed premises, Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	112
Factory Canteens	59

Certain shops require to be registered in accordance with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, also in connection with ice cream and prepared foods, and at the 31st December, 1955, 205 premises were included in the register.

Numerous routine visits to food premises of all kinds have gone a long way to maintaining the high standard of food hygiene which is being demanded more and more by the general public. The opportunity is taken of using these visits as occasions for educational work amongst food traders and food handlers, and the introduction of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, has made it clear that as a nation we must take food hygiene matters seriously.

The extended powers now enshrined in the new regulations are being imposed in all food premises, and a considerable amount of extra equipment will have to be installed to meet these requirements.

Formal action in respect of unsound food was only exercised on two occasions during the year, and in each case the circumstances were such that legal proceedings were not considered to be justified, and warning letters were sent to the offenders by the Town Clerk.

Continued sampling of articles of food and drugs, with a view to the control of their purity and compositional quality resulted in the submission of 178 samples to the Public Analyst. Fourteen of the samples were found either not genuine or bearing a misleading label, and all but one of these unsatisfactory samples were remedied by formal action. The one case where legal proceedings were instituted concerned a sample of pork sausage containing 38.3% meat. At the hearing the case was proved, and a fine and costs were imposed on the defendants.

The experience of the last two summers concerning the sampling of ice cream has proved that continued attention must still be given to the process of manufacture and conditions of storage prior to sale. No less than 80 visits were made in this connection to supervise manufacturing plant and processes, and also to assess applications for registration and re-inspection of premises selling ice cream.

Although it is not possible to impose conditions when registering premises for the sale of ice cream, all new applicants, without exception, have been found willing to sign a written undertaking to sell only completely wrapped, pre-packed ice cream whenever the inspector has indicated that the premises are not suitable for the sale and storage of loose ice cream.

The year under review saw further additions to the register on the 31st December, 1955. The totals in the register were as shown below:—

Manufacture and sale of ice cream	15
Sale and storage of ice cream	143
	158

Results of Ice Cream Testing

Bacteriological.	Meth. Blue Reduction Test			
	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
Loose ice cream				
(manufactured in Stretford)	7	—	—	—
Loose ice cream				
(manufactured elsewhere)	2	—	—	3
Wrapped ice cream				
(manufactured elsewhere)	12	2	5	6
Total	21	2	5	9

3 lollies examined were satisfactory.

		Fat Content		
		More than 10%	5-10 %	2½-5 % Less than 2½%
Chemical				
Loose ice cream (manufactured in Stretford)	1	5	1	—
Loose ice cream (manufactured elsewhere)	3	—	—	—
Wrapped ice cream (manufactured elsewhere)	14	2	1	—
Total	18	7	2	—

5 lollies examined all found to be genuine.

(8) SHOPS AND OFFICES

The Shops Act with orders made thereunder and the Public Health Act contain provisions designed to promote the health and comfort of workers in shops and offices, and your inspectors made 181 visits to shops and 20 visits to offices during the year in this connection. Invariably conditions are found to be satisfactory and well within the standards adopted by the department. Some improvements in amenities have been provided, and no infringements of the hours of closing of shops were reported during the year.

Sunday trading still continues to give rise to difficulty, due to mixed business and off-licences being open on Sundays, and from time to time reports are received that commodities which may not be sold on Sundays are sometimes passed over the counter. Numerous Sunday visits have been made to counteract this tendency, and circulars have been sent out in many cases, but further enforcement of Sunday trading restrictions will be required and the position is being kept under review.

(9) MISCELLANEOUS DUTIES

(a) Cinemas

The standard of amenity in all cinemas has been maintained at a high level during the year. Only minor defects in connection with sanitary accommodation have been found upon occasional routine inspection. Defects of this nature always receive prompt attention from the management.

(b) Explosives

The Explosives Act, 1875, requires the registration of premises for the sale of fireworks, and the licensing of premises for the storage of explosives. In accordance with usual practice a circular letter was addressed, prior to November, to all

shopkeepers who were known to sell fireworks, reminding them of the regulations in connection with the safe storage and display of both fireworks and shop goods, and certain restrictions on sales. As a result, 79 persons were registered for the sale of fireworks.

It was not found necessary to issue any licences during the year for the storage of explosives, as the only persons using such material are factories with cartridge operated tools, or shopkeepers selling ammunition for small arms. The quantities of explosives stored have been kept below prescribed minimum in each case to avoid the need for licensing.

(c) Game Licences

Five licences to deal in game were issued to fishmongers and poulterers upon application during the calendar year.

(d) Marine Store Dealers

The administration of Section 86 of the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907, requires the registration in this department of marine store dealers. There were no applications during the course of the year, so that the number of persons on the register remains at seven. Authorisations were issued at the request of the Chief Superintendent of the Lancashire Constabulary to enable police officers to inspect the records kept by these dealers.

(e) Rag Flock and Filling Materials

A standard for the cleanliness of rag flock and other filling materials used in bedding, upholstery, soft toys, etc., is prescribed by regulations, but there are no premises within the Borough to which the registration or licensing requirements apply.

(f) Schools

There are 25 schools within the Borough and all the amenities are maintained at a reasonably high standard. During the course of the year 27 visits were made by the inspectorate in connection with sanitary accommodation, washing facilities and the condition of yard surfaces. Some improvement will be called for in the near future in certain minor aspects of sanitary accommodation, and it is anticipated that these will be undertaken without undue delay.

In connection with the schools meals service, the food inspectors have maintained a rigorous control over the contracts relating to school meals. Numerous visits to school kitchens have been necessary during the year to ensure full compliance with the terms of contract for the supply of the various commodities.

(10) **HACKNEY CARRIAGES**

Various changes have occurred during the course of the year in the licensing of hackney carriages to operate within the Borough, but the nett result has been to maintain the number of licensed vehicles at ten, which is the same number as last year.

There has been a steady improvement in the standard of vehicle, so that the cars now available for the public are either purpose-built taxis or limousines provided with a partition behind the driving seat. Special hackney carriage licences to ply for hire only on the three special stands were granted in respect of 80 vehicles licensed elsewhere than in Stretford. Special drivers licences in connection with these vehicles were issued in the names of 88 individual drivers.

(11) **PUBLIC MORTUARY**

The public mortuary adjoining Trafford Public Hall, Talbot Road, was brought into use on 70 occasions during the year, and the following statement shows the certified cause of death in all cases when bodies were received into the mortuary:—

Cause of Death	No. of occasions when Mortuary used
Natural causes	52
Accidental:	
Car accident 1	
Coal Gas Poisoning 1	
Fall in house 1	
Fall at work 1	
Run over by train 1	
Trapped by machinery 1	
Run over by P.S.V. 1	
Electrocution at work 1	
Drowning 1	9
Misadventure :	
Carbon monoxide poisoning 1	
Electrocution 1	2
Suicide :	
Drowning 1	
Coal gas poisoning 3	4
Murder :	
Strangulation 1	1
Child Neglect	1
Open Verdict.....	1
TOTAL	70

(12) NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951

Burial or Cremation of the Dead

The provisions of Section 50 of the principal Act impose a duty on the Council of causing to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died, or been found dead, within the Borough, in any case where it appears that no suitable arrangements have been made, or are being made, to dispose of the body. Three such cases were dealt with by the department at a total cost of £23 5s. 6d. Two cases concerned infants, one of which was unidentified, and no income was received in these two cases to offset the expenditure incurred. The third case concerned a male in late middle age who was found dead in his lodgings. The expenditure incurred was, however, covered by a death grant amounting to £12 and outstanding wages.

(13) PETROLEUM AND CARBIDE

The inspection of storage installations and the supervision of essential repairs and improvements in the interests of public safety called for 113 inspections during the course of the year. Applications for storage licences from 190 applicants were received and granted, and the income from licence fees amounted to £126 15s. 0d.

(14) PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) Refuse Collection

With the erection of houses and shop premises during the year a further extension of the collection service was called for, and by the 31st December, 1955, house refuse was being removed from 18,452 dwellinghouses and from 140 shops and offices. At the same time there was an increase in the number of portable dustbins used for the storage of house refuse, and the total figure reached 19,694. Premises on the docks and wharves of the Ship Canal still make use of 14 pail closets, and these are regularly emptied at twice weekly intervals.

The Municipal Dustbin Provision Scheme continued during the year and was responsible for the renewal of 1,858 unserviceable receptacles.

The average clearance of refuse again reached 12% of the total dustbins per day, and in the organisation of the collection teams advantage was taken of variations in seasonal output of refuse by the "continuous" method of collection.

For a period of ten years the number of bins required to be emptied within the Borough has increased by one-third, but

there has not been a comparable increase in manpower, and with the increasing demands made upon the resources of the department it is felt that the position should be reviewed in the near future.

The aim of the Health Committee and of the department has always been a regular weekly collection, and it seems that a relatively small addition to the establishment of the department should achieve that object.

(b) Refuse Disposal

The availability of land for constructional tipping, and the relative economy in this method of disposal, makes it an obvious choice, and the present site is capable of dealing with the output of the town's refuse for the next thirty years. The weight of refuse dealt with at the controlled tip exceeded 18,000 tons, and in addition, refuse from the Highways and Parks Departments was also accepted.

The efficiency of mechanical handling by means of the bulldozer has been maintained during the year, and the Council continues to reap the benefit of a greatly reduced wages bill.

(c) Salvage

The fluctuation in demand for paper salvage is a feature of the cleansing service which has come to be accepted as inevitable by cleansing officers. Waste paper may be regarded as a marginal material for paper and board making, as other and dearer ingredients are necessary to produce a satisfactory product. Towards the end of the year there were indications that the recovery of waste paper by local authorities had overtaken the demands of the board mills, and it is anticipated that the restriction on capital expenditure will prevent the demand from rising during the coming year.

In spite of the tendency mentioned above, I am pleased to report that the year 1955 was a most successful one from the point of view of salvage income, which reached the total of £4,065, which is almost as good as the best recent year when the price of mixed waste rocketted to £16 per ton. This result has been achieved by propaganda and encouragement of the collection teams by means of a salvage bonus, and every effort will be made to keep the salvage organisation running smoothly, even though market conditions do not favour any further expansion.

The value of the various materials recovered by the department are furnished in the following table:—

Material	Weight			Income		
	Tons cwt. lbs			£	s.	d.
Kitchen Waste	267	9	56	1,088	10	5
Mixed Waste Paper	270	12	84	2,134	5	5
Newsprint	34	9	56	360	19	8
Fibre Board	41	15	0	411	16	3
Books and Magazines	6	9	84	61	12	7
Scrap Iron	3	3	0	11	0	6
Scrap Bins		7	56		7	6
String		1	0		6	0
TOTAL	624	8	0	£4,065	18	4

The recovery of salvage during and since the war years has been an important factor in reducing the operating costs of the department, and the total weight of salvage recovered since 1939 is shown in the classified statement below. The total tonnage has now reached the figure of 12,713 tons, which has provided a total income of £51,205:—

	Tons
Baled Paper	4,520
Kitchen Waste	6,359
Textiles	181
Bones	131
Ferrous Metals	343
Non-ferrous Metal	30
Bottles and Jars	340
Glass	141
Tins	251
Rubber	37

APPENDIX -

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND OTHER LICENCES

The following Licences have been issued:

	Year 1955		
	No. issued	Rate	Amount received
		s. d.	£ s. d.
Hackney Carriages:			
Coach	10	—	—
Drivers	13	1 0	13 0
Special Coach	80	—	—
Special Drivers	88	1 0	4 8 0
Other Licences issued:			
Petroleum	182	Scale } do. }	126 15 0
Carbide of Calcium	8		
Storage of Fireworks	79		
		1 0	3 19 0